

## CENTERSPREAD

Ms. Hoffmann:  
After 30 years, it is time to  
say goodbye

See you later,  
Senior Sabres!  
Prom 2000

Senior College List:  
Do you know where your  
friends will be next year?

# THE SABRES' BLADE

South Mecklenburg High School

MAY, 2000

Volume XXVI

## SENIOR ISSUE

**Senior  
Follies**

**Spring  
Break**

**Prom  
2000**

Quite frankly, I cannot remember the names of famous European people (except Rasputin — thank you, Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Russo!) and I cannot remember what a sig fig is (sorry, Mr. Holder). But I can remember the first lunches in the cafeteria and the stress of newspaper deadlines. I will remember the feeling of mixed relief and joy at seeing this year's first newspaper in print. Most importantly, I will remember the people who pulled together, worked hard, and finally made it through the year. Thank you, newspaper staff, for your hard work. You may have slacked off some, but when it came down to it, you got the job done; you pulled together and made it. Good luck, next year's staff.

Cat Traphagan  
1999-2000 Editor in Chief



As incoming editors of *The Sabres' Blade*, we have a lot of experience to look back upon in order to make next year great. The 1999-2000 newspaper staff as a whole provided us with many lessons and has left lasting impressions and influences. Among these, the most important are those that the seniors have left behind. Yes, they whined and brought about volatile arguments, but they also taught us a thing or two. Their advice has not pertained only to *The Sabres' Blade*; they have given us insight into life as seniors at South and in life. Cat, Julia, Alexi, Dustin, Larisa, John, Neil, Jennifer, Laura, and Joon, we love you; you will be missed next year!

Katy McClure  
Lindsay Buchert  
2000-2001 Co-Editors

**Senior  
Week**

**Reverse  
Homecoming**

~~**Senior Exit  
Project**~~

*The Class of*

# 2000

# Senior College List

Do you know where your friends will be next year?

## Appalachian State

Cat Traphagan  
Krysta Zellers  
Lauren Tate  
Matt Bilotta  
Leah Good  
Rebecca Williamson  
Lee Glanzman  
Amber Constant  
Kim Straple  
Ed Crowley  
Leslie Cunningham  
Taurean Walker  
Justin Tucker  
James Goy  
Stephanie Spaulding  
Kristy Carroll  
Ashley Smith  
Matt Faye  
Nicolette Mullais  
Kristen Ballantine  
Jimmy Kleto  
Thomas Newsom  
Morgan Hesse  
Emily Ness  
Jessica Schneider  
Cody McClaflin  
Ashley Poteat  
Brooke Spada  
Jennifer Raimo

## North Carolina State

Larisa Yasinovskaya  
Lisa Payerle  
Jason Peterson  
Bryson Hopkins  
Greg Coleman  
Megan Bowker  
Joon Lee  
Mary Katherine Morgan  
Michelle Baker  
Milesh Patel  
Katie Hahn  
Jeff Lawrence  
Brian Keene  
John Lingen  
John Lakas  
Anisha Patel  
Joyce Shuman  
Julia Flumian  
Greg Pritchard  
Clint Thrasher  
Gordon Franklin  
Sandra Epps  
Josh Hughes

Amy Overstreet  
Allison Maul  
Jon Pfeifer  
Michael Chang  
Rifka Tannenbaum

**UNC Greensboro**  
Tenley Love  
Rebecca Avril  
Katie Devlin  
Ami Moller  
Julia Carlsen  
Brad Kenyon  
Melissa Thaler  
Diana Howey

**UNC Asheville**  
Caroline Mann  
Adrienne Dunlap  
Chrissy Koelle  
Amy Love  
Jisun Kim

**UNC Chapel Hill**  
Laura King  
Jennifer Samuels  
Sarah Murphy  
Jeffrey Johnson  
Denise Huntley  
Adrienne Barnett  
Emily Washam  
Lindsey Wilfley  
Melissa Stewart  
Jenny Williams  
Nipa Doshi  
Rina Shah  
Irene Esquerra  
Juliette Vogel  
Quinn Marvin  
Shell Thaxton  
Greg Smith  
Scott Andrews  
Tiffany Corbell  
Justin Hsu  
Michael Booth  
Brendan McHugh  
Katy Dillard

**UNC Charlotte**  
Jennifer Britton  
Elizabeth Holland  
John Edwards  
Marwa Ismail  
Nathan Daniel  
Joanna Schwebel

Kristi Ashley  
Kimberly Banoue  
Georgia Pappas  
Christine Ragheb  
Mayuri Viroja  
Stefanie Sweeney  
Lindsay Brambilla  
Karen Dizio  
Victoria Otero  
Farheen Khan

**Queens College**  
Jacy Painter  
Shannon Pasotto  
Hector Valenzuela  
Jessica Cashio

**UNC Wilmington**  
Lisa Coppedge  
Chris Gordon  
Jill Sabella  
Lindsay Wilson  
Matt Roberts  
Amanda Hislop  
Jodie Nelson  
Zack Whitaker  
Patricia Drayton  
Demesha Long  
Drew Dixon

**North Carolina A&T**  
Shanodda Douglass  
LaToya Young  
Rehema Primus  
Jamila Bolden  
Sarah Davis  
Shameka Simpson  
Bryan Alexander

**East Carolina University**  
Brandon Kessler  
Lauren Sage  
Tina Nguyen  
Cory Keyser  
Julie Laird  
Laura Miceli  
Hunter Brantley  
Jennifer Krell

## Central Piedmont Community College

Jeff King  
Steven Wolfe  
Lashona Byrd  
Kelvin Jones  
Michael Fallows  
Matt Honaker  
Robynetta Evans  
Justin Bennett  
David Hughes  
Lindsay Biggers  
Stephen Mahoney  
Kaitlin Blais  
Betsy Cockerham  
Rob Wilson  
Justin Anderson  
Stacen Smith  
Matthew Ritter  
Vivian Gregory  
Clare Eplaebun

**Military Service**  
Jesse Benzel  
David Bohn  
Nya McGowan

**University of Tennessee**  
Meghan Doughton  
Catherine Bagwell

**Full Sail University**  
Adam Capwell

**University of South Carolina**  
Brian Shiels  
Blair Kernodle  
Tripp Howey  
Peter Patnaik

**Cape Fear Community College**  
Erin Satterfield

**Bojangles University**  
LaToya Luther

**College of Charleston**  
Megan Pesta

**Lees McRae**  
Jeff Tate

**Lynn University**  
McNeal Gravatt

**Virginia Tech**  
Mark Weis  
Clay Culberson

**St. Andrews Presbyterian**  
Manuel Pimentel

**Lenoir-Rhyne College**  
Brian Neill  
Matt Lockrem  
Dan Futrelle

**South Eastern Cosmetology**  
Ariel Tindal  
Laura Miceli  
Hunter Brantley  
Jennifer Krell

**Johnson C. Smith**  
Shemedra Coats

**Winston-Salem State**  
Claresa Simmons  
Kim Davis  
Daiquiri Ross  
Wynette Harris  
Andrea Robinson

**Loyola University, New Orleans**  
Kathy Britton

**Clark University, Atlanta**  
Courtney Leak  
Heather Caldwell

**Texas Music Conservatory**  
Rebecca Costas

**Campbell University**  
Joy Hughes  
Lenny Bell

**Winthrop University**  
Chris Hathcock  
Jared Jones

**Georgia Tech**  
Alexi Neill  
Matthew Chang  
Stephanie Freeman  
Will Brown

**University of Virginia**  
Neil Smith

**Elon College**  
Mark Hendrix

**University of Kansas**  
Kendra Rau

**University of Maryland**  
Sudip Vyas

**Catawba College**  
Sean Sears  
Devon Clyburn

**Cornell University**  
Taneh Worjoloh

**North Carolina Central**  
Hy'sona Ross  
Satta Nalo  
Sheena Scott  
Letitia Drayton

**Dillard University**  
Samone Williams

**North Carolina School of the Arts**  
Andrea Crampe

**Furman University**  
Emma Juncadella

**Savannah College of Art and Design**  
Ryan Gillis

**Southeastern Massage School**  
Diana Pasillico

**San Diego State University**  
Athena Robertson

**Gardner-Webb**  
Berkeley Fellers  
Lindsay Mohnacky

**Emory and Henry College of Virginia**  
John Donaldson

**Western Carolina**  
Michael Reane  
Micheal Bodenstein  
Thomas Gladziszewski  
Tung Le  
Thomas Basch

**Kings College**  
Koren Hart

**Florida State University**  
Ben Hsiang

**Pennsylvania State University**  
Alicia Chermainsky

**Clemson University**  
Matt Preslar

**Hampton -Sydney College**  
Chris Wyer

**University of Houston**  
Robbie Shaber

## Senior Sabres

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The Sabres' Blade staff will accept any and all letters, articles, editorials, etc., but cannot guarantee publication. We reserve the right, however, to edit any material for obscenity, misinformation, or other necessary corrections. All opinions expressed in The Sabres' Blade are those of the individual writers and not the staff as a whole. If you have any questions, please feel free to come by B-2.

## Answers to Senior Mysteries: LaToya Young Greg Coleman

Congratulations Seniors

## Teacher Spotlight

**Mrs. Hoffmann: Español Extraordinaire**

**By Meg Caldwell**  
STAFF REPORTER

Imagine teaching the same subject at the same school for 29 years. When it comes to experience in the classroom, few teachers have a resume quite like that of Mrs. Hoffmann.

A native of Barranquilla, Colombia, Mrs. Hoffmann was originally set on studying medicine. However, due to a lack of medical schools in her area, she chose to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a teacher. She attended Universidad Atlantico, majoring in philosophy, due to her lack of passion for studying foreign languages. She later earned a master's degree in curriculum from UNCC.

Mrs. Hoffmann first began teaching Spanish at Harding in the 1970-71 school year. She was then transferred to



Julia Flumian/Staff Photographer

**"My spirit will still be wandering D-7."**

South Meck, where she has remained ever since. In fact, up until last year, you could even find her in the exact

same classroom, D-7, for each of those years. "My spirit will still be wandering D-7," states Mrs. Hoffmann.

Although Mrs. Hoffmann still enjoys teaching Spanish classes, she has decided to retire once this school year has reached an end. "I should leave with a good taste in my mouth," she says. This will leave her with more time to devote to some of her favorite hobbies, including traveling, doing crossword puzzles, walking, and most importantly, spending time with her grandchildren. However, this doesn't mean you won't spot her around campus anymore. She plans to help Mrs. Saxon next year, and would also like to pursue mentoring for senior exit projects, even after her departure.

With all these years at South under her belt, Mrs. Hoffmann has been left with many memories, both amusing and sorrowful, engraved in her mind. One of the more humorous memories she rec-

ollects is spotting some students streaking while one of her Spanish III classes was reciting speeches. She still gets a good laugh while telling that one. On a more serious note, the death of Mrs. Cannon in December 1984, marks one of the more disturbing memories that Mrs. Hoffmann has dealt with to date.

With words of advice for her students, Mrs. Hoffmann promotes positiveness as the key to success and urges everyone to try to enjoy being a student. While comparing life to hurdles, she thinks every individual should set a goal in life, and although they may come across certain obstacles, they can overcome them with a little hard work and perseverance.

With her intelligence, sense of humor, and overall good nature, Mrs. Hoffmann will surely be missed.

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## Senior Goodbyes

So maybe this is the end. This is where our childhood truly stops and the journey to adulthood awaits to be tread on. Thursday, June 1, 2000, we will say good-bye to morning announcements and tardy bells, as we speed down the entrance ramp onto the cluttered highway of life. That is not to say that we aren't living now; we are. It's just that we are living in someone else's world with money for gas, clothes that are bought for us and Mamas' kisses goodnight. We are leaving the world our parents made for us with their rules, their houses and their love. The next world is our world. It is where we begin to explore the possibilities of finding ourselves. It is the world where the battles fought are our own. It is the world where we will set the speed limit for the rest of our lives. Are we ready? Of course not. No one is truly ready for life changing situations. Yes, we are ready to leave the attendance office and the twenty minute lunches, but are we ready to leave Mom and Dad, freedom from bills, slack-off classes and the security of our familiar and known world? I'm certainly not. I will miss South Meck. I will miss spot 272. I will miss the SENIOR patio, I will miss...oh who am I kidding? I am going to love college. But I will miss the familiar faces of the Class of 2000. We were put to the test the minute we set foot off the bright yellow bus or out of Mommy's car. Our compassion and courage were tested. And in the end we won. We have a long road ahead on which we will be tested again and again as we head off on our different paths. But I believe we will win again because like Anne Frank, I think that all people are inherently good. Hey, we made it this far, didn't we?

-Cat Traphagan  
Editor In Chief

It seemed like yesterday when I set foot on South's campus as a lowly freshman. I paid my dues to the upperclassmen; they got their laughs when I took the plunge into the C-building bushes. Back then freshmen knew their place at South, on the Cheese Wagon!!! The times we shared at high school will be remembered for years. I know I will never forget my friends, teachers, and coaches who shaped me to be the individual I am. Thank you to Mrs. Berry; your energy exceeds my understanding, even a distance runner has trouble keeping up. Mr Rose, the comic relief you provided after an exhausting day could cure anyone with a case of Senioritis. Mrs. Tolliver, I enjoyed every minute of your class, even when I was enjoying pancakes at IHOP. Coach Zelk, through the good times and bad, I had some of my most memorable experiences with the team. You taught me the true meaning of winning and I will never forget that. My friends thanks for all the fun times. What would you have done without Lack-As? To all the students who are coming back to South next year, I'm sorry!!! No, seriously. Enjoy the good times because high school and life only last so long, and its what you make of them now that counts. Tomorrow, as we graduate and go our separate ways, it will be a sad time but the memories we hold with us will never be forgotten.

-John Lakas  
Sports Co-Editor

Upon attempting to write my senior goodbye, I am left to wonder whether or not it is possible to condense four years of friends, memories, and, most importantly, experiences, into a few paragraphs of type. The impact that my time at South Meck has left on me is not tangible. The person that I have become as a result of my experiences is not evident from the surface, but rather from the tasks that I devote my energy. Thus, the mixed feelings that I have about graduation are justified. While I am grateful for the past four years, I am eager to break free of the confines of a high school environment and become a productive member of the real world. However, I am somewhat apprehensive about leaving behind the safety of high school. Here, I know that there are teachers who actually care about my education enough to devote extra time to helping me. I know that I have classmates who can be kind instead of cruel. Most importantly, though, I know that South is a controlled environment that will keep me safe even if it means going to the most extreme measures (think bathroom escorts). It is perhaps this final piece of knowledge that causes the most fear in me when it comes time to leave. As much as everyone complains, I have no doubt in my mind that South will be dearly missed. When the last of the graduates of the Class of 2000 have filed out of the door of the Charlotte Coliseum on June 1st, 2000, nothing will await us except endless possibilities and the dangers that come with freedom. Thank you to everyone with whom I have crossed paths over the past four years. Though it may not have seemed so at the time, and may not be evident even now, you have left an impact on me that has helped to shape who I am - and who I will become.

-Jennifer Samuels  
Centerspread Editor

As we approach the home stretch of the long four year race that we have all run, I see all of the people and things from South that are important to me and I realize that I may never see them again. This makes me realize how special the last four years have been.

We have survived the race and cleared many hurdles along the way: Jerry Berry Vocabulary, the "House of Payne", humanities projects, and even the feared senior exit project. My best memories from South are from being a part of the Cross Country team. Although we have had

many ups and downs, we will never forget how we defied the odds to win the conference championship.

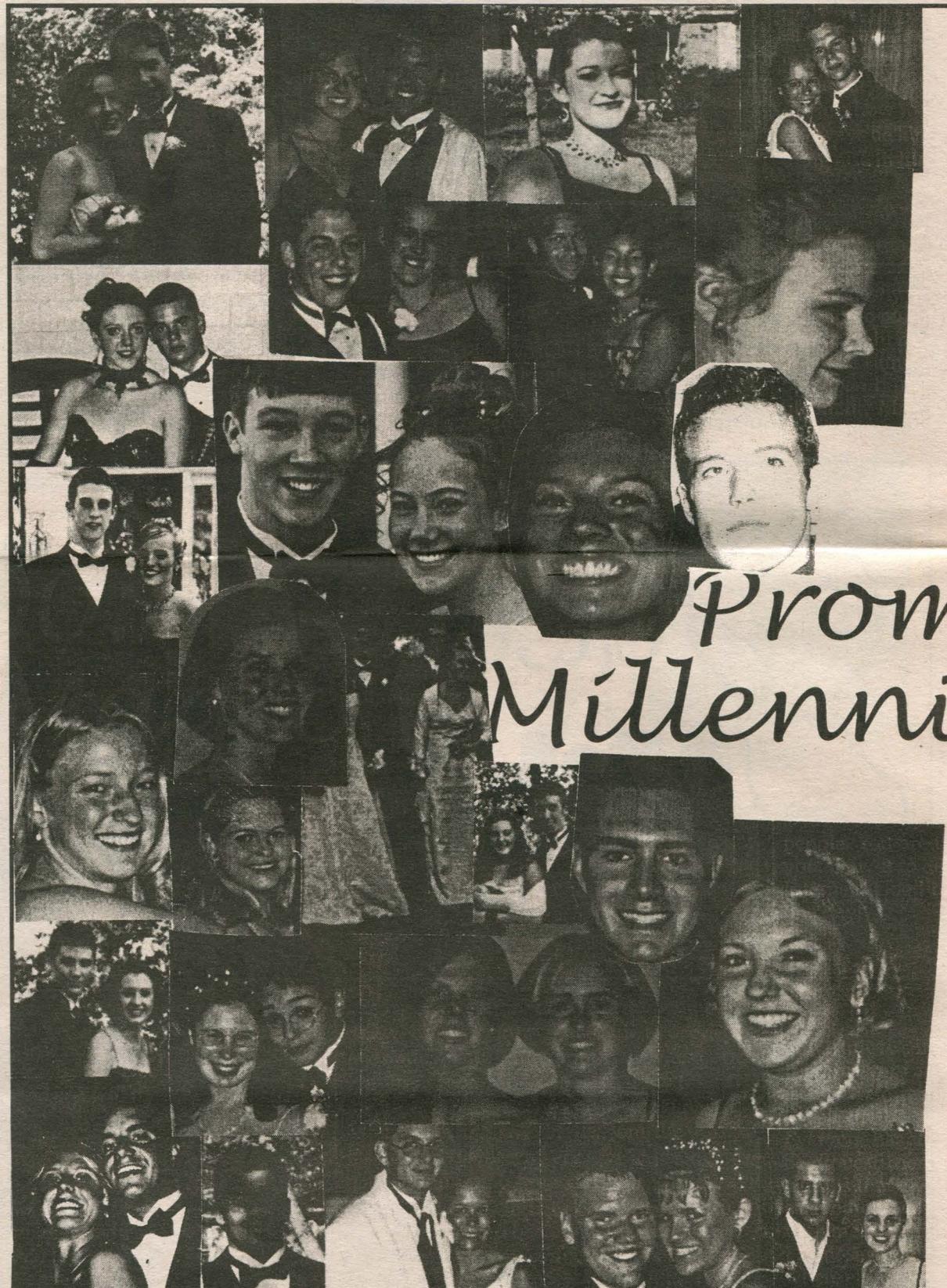
Now its just a quick sprint to the finish line and we will all have finished. We will go on to begin training for bigger races with stronger competition. I am looking forward to starting a new race, but not as a Sabre. I am ready to move on, but I will always remember my times at South.

-Alexi Neill  
Sports Co-Editor

Don't be sad. Get over it. I don't like it when people cry. They look even funnier than they normally do.

So you're leaving South Meck. You're going to college. Getting out of here. Isn't that all you've wanted to do for the past four years?

You won't have to put up with the hypocrisy and double standards and subjectivity inherent in our public educational system. Although most of you are going to public universities, it's not the same there.



Here I am, a high school senior anxiously awaiting graduation. It seems as if only yesterday I was a nervous, introverted freshman setting foot on campus for the very first time. A lot has changed since then. A glance at the past reveals a wealth of precious memories; senior year, in particular, becomes a whirlwind of college applications, the infamous spring break week, and who took who to prom. Final soccer games. Last dances. First loves. Last laughs. Shared tears. The

precious moments are what made me who I am.

What lies beyond June 1 is uncharted territory. We will all set out together, and alone, to find the rest of our lives. Some of us will keep in touch. Others will drift apart. This is the way life is. Every day life changes. But our memories will stay the same. People are kind of like stained glass windows. We are made up of so many different pieces of glass; yet if one piece was removed, the beauty of the window would be forever lost.

These pieces are our memories. I wouldn't trade them for the world.

So in three weeks I will be a high school graduate. Here come the mixed emotions everyone before me swore I would have. I'm ready to get out of high school like everyone else. I'm anxious for the freedom of summer and the vast college campus awaiting me. At the same time all I want to do is give everyone a hug. Gone are all the grudges I have ever held, all the conflicts I have ever had. None of it matters anymore. We are be-

Get out and do some good. Don't be complacent like most people. Realize who you are and what you can do. You don't want to have a perpetual cycle of the four years of high school for the rest of your life, do you?

-Dustin Joyce  
Graphics Editor

Good-bye South Meck!!! I'm about ready to leave after three treacherous years here. But you know what? I never thought I'd say this, but I'm gonna miss this place. Well, at least a little bit. I'm gonna miss watching freshmen jump in bushes, chillin' with my homies - trying to get every bit of the six minutes you can to socialize, and my power naps in every class. I'm gonna miss playing lacrosse and going to home basketball games. Oh yeah, I'll also miss being the smartest student ever to open a physics book. Frankie, yeah,

that's you Machado. Why don't you call my house some more? It's all good though cuz' you da man, Machado. This is it, the last few days of high school, might as well make them count. Good luck to all...I'm out.

-Joon Lee  
Staff Reporter

Thank you South Mecklenburg. Thank you teachers, for preparing me for the future, especially those who have gone above and beyond to make class interesting. I am prepared. Thank you school employees. The multitude of tasks you manage has made South run smoothly. Thank you old friends. I have many wonderful memories from high school. Thank you new friends for the experiences of the last four years. Finally, thank you underclassmen. Through those of you I got to know this year, I was able to see how the cycle continues with the next generation. I have been lucky. I have had a successful and charmed high school experience. To the underclassmen, here is some advice to help you academically and socially through the remainder of your high school years.

--School is rarely ever fair. Find a way to work around it.  
--Challenge yourself, but never to the point where you stop enjoying high school.  
--Read books. Later you will be glad you did.  
--Beautiful, intelligent women are not a dime a dozen. If you are lucky enough to find one, hang on to her.  
--Find your own style. Abercrombie is not a style.  
--Always open doors for ladies.  
--Don't sacrifice your future to be cool. No one cares who was cool in high school.  
--Contrary to popular opinion, MTV doesn't know what is cool.  
--Learn how to dance real dances like the foxtrot, waltz, and shag.  
--Always be kind to everyone. This will get you further than anything else in life.

-Neil Smith  
Staff Reporter

Honestly I'm glad that I'm leaving high school. I'm sure I won't miss it too much, but I will come back to thank all the teachers that truly taught me. It is to them that I owe thanks for helping me get to where I am now—college. There are many to whom I owe thanks, but I can only mention a few. Mr. Blanton—just go easy on the olephant. Mr. Holder, I actually enjoyed chemistry. Maybe I'll get you a new yardstick for Christmas. Mr. Boykin, it's been fun all these years. I think that in three years I know all the stories. I think I'll eventually publish an unauthorized collection of them. Ms. Smith, you taught me how to write, and that is one of the things I am most thankful for because it is something that I love to do, and it's wonderful to be able to do it well. Ms. Moshos - Latin is a language that I will actually use, so thank you. Remember us along with Pete's Mickey. Mrs. Miklos, truly the most amusing teacher I ever had. Don't forget your medication, and keep an eye on Marklar - he's a feisty one. Mrs. Toliver, the only math class that I ever actually liked and learned something in. It will help my politicing, so thanks. And of course, Ms. Miller and RJ; thank you for your high expectations of me. It's politics from now on, thanks to you. See you next year when I judge.

I really hope that South can do without me. Everyone, just keep in mind, even though I won't be here to make you think, you must maintain constant vigilance against those who would take away your rights. The government is for the people and by the people. You are the people so the government will only be what you allow it to be! To all my buds, keep in touch. It's all about the Internet ! Good-bye, for now. You'll hear of me soon. Vote for me one day!

-Larisa Yasinovskaya  
Business Manager

Truth is something for which I have always strived. I have tried in every aspect of my life to tell what I see as the truth. This is, of course, more of a burden than anything else. And so I will try to tell the truth about myself and my intentions for the future. Everyone has already begun to talk about staying in touch and about being best friends forever. I am not going to say all of that. The truth is that we have no idea how long we will be in contact with each other. Most of my closest friends are either going to NC State with me or to Chapel Hill, but there are a few scattered elsewhere. I can't say that I will drive to Boone, or to Winston-Salem or anywhere else. After we leave the coliseum on June 1, we are no longer the graduating class, we are what was and what might have been.

We won't be talking about spring break, or prom, or Senior Follies anymore. We will be talking about our future, bank accounts, and careers. We have already changed so much since freshman year, how will more time treat our friendships? I don't want to say that I am going to stay in touch. I am not going to say something that I don't mean. What I do mean is that the experiences of the last four years will always connect us. From Dave Harrelson's death to the various arrests at Cherry Grove, we are no longer the graduating class. We are family.

Perhaps not family that gets along all the time, but we seniors are connected beyond phone calls and e-mails. We will always be this group of special, intelligent, and interesting people. Time will change us, and many of us will not speak again, but all of us carry a piece of each other. Step away from this experience knowing that the future is limitless and that the years will never separate us.

-Julia Flumian  
Staff Photographer



## 2000: The Magic



giving a new chapter now. Life is short, but sweet. Enjoy it while you still can. As for the thank-yous, I haven't compiled my list yet. Everyone I have ever known has in some way served to make my life better. To my friends, enemies, teachers, coaches, teammates, family, and fellow graduates, I will remember you long after the things I learned in class have been forgotten. You have all touched my life in a special way. Regardless of what the future holds for me, you will be a part of me forever.

-Laura King  
Staff Artist

They might be worth something, someday...

John Lee  
Jennifer Samuels  
David Jones  
Julia Flumian  
Larisa Yasinovskaya  
Alisa Neill

# Senior Faces in the Crowd

## Juliette Vogel: A Hard-Working Senior

By Lindsay Buchert  
STAFF REPORTER

Those who know Juliette Vogel consider her to be an intelligent, hard-working student. She is enrolled in many high level courses including French IV, AP biology, AP psychology, AP English, and AP US government. It was these courses that got her into NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill. She is still undecided as to which one she will attend next year. What she is sure of, however, is her major: neuroscience. Juliette aspires to work in the field of psychology after college.

In addition to her challenging school schedule, Juliette is also involved in many extra-curricular activities and clubs. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Civitan. She is also the vice president of the French National Honor Soci-



**In CD Player:** Depeche Mode  
**Favorite Food:** Mashed Potatoes  
**Favorite Color:** Purple  
**Favorite TV Show:** Friends

ety and a staff member of *Sententia*. Outside of school, she is quite busy as well. She volunteers at the public library and works as a file clerk at Nationwide Insurance.

Even though she is busy with her school work and extra-curricular activities, Juliette still manages to find time to relax by watching movies and listening to music. Her favorite actresses are Winona Ryder and Julia Roberts, who she looks up to in a way, mainly because of their great acting abilities.

Now that her four years at South are nearing an end, Juliette's advice to students at South is to focus more on the learning aspects of education, rather than on the grades one might receive. "Don't get caught up in grades. You will always do better if you're just there to learn." After all, what else are we here for?

## Senior Mysteries



Dustin Joyce  
GRAPHICS EDITOR

This Senior Mystery is one of the highest-ranking females in NJROTC where she is company commander. She has been a cheerleader during basketball and football season, and she's a member of NAACP, DECA, and SWV, where she's the historian. *The Charlotte Post* named her an Outstanding Senior, and next year she'll be attending NC A&T in Greensboro, majoring in accounting. Still don't know who she is? Well, if it's an A day, just go up to Mr. Spencer's office; she'll probably be there. If you don't have time for that, look at page 2.



Neil Smith  
STAFF REPORTER

This senior mystery is always scheming. His unmistakable sense of humor and his controversial actions have made him stand out at South. You may have seen him driving his huge Ford Bronco or on the Secret Service's Most Wanted List. He is very involved in both the Octagon Service Club and the Key Club. This senior is always there in a pinch to help out others. Students in the courtyard never miss his bulging smile between every class. Still don't know? This mystery is an excellent golfer. Check page 2 to see if you are correct.

See Page 2 for  
answers

## Peter Patnaik: Policy and Politics

Larisa Yasinovskaya  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Peter is best known around school for his Proletariat club and communistic beliefs, which can be summed up by paraphrasing Karl Marx: "The workers need to control the means of production based on common need instead of individual wants."

Peter has participated in debate for four years and is the vice president of the Debate Club. As one of the top debaters for the school he is a runner-up for the national tournament this year. Peter has also been involved with Mock Trial for three years and is the vice president of that club, too.

He is also involved in AP and AG classes, with his favorite being US Government and Latin. His English teacher, Ms. Wasson, has even dubbed him "a lovable rogue."

Peter has performed community service delivering



**Biggest Fear:** Penguins  
**Favorite Color:** Green  
**In CD Player:** Fishbone  
**Favorite Food:** Mrs. Edward's Rice

friendship meal trays to people who can't cook for themselves.

You may have also seen Peter working at the Phillips Place movie theater in the past, but he recently quit to work at Music Warehouse at Carolina Place Mall selling CDs, a job he loves.

To his friends, Peter is known as "Pete Pat of Kumar," and for some very amusing pet peeves: jeans, pinching and people standing behind him.

He takes pride in his car, a blue Toyota Camry and his extensive and diverse CD collection which consists of about 200 discs. Peter is evidently very fond of his beagle, Deckard, who eerily resembles him, and has thankfully gotten over a case of ringworm.

Peter always keeps his peers thinking with quotes like this: "We're all flying on the inside."

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## Sabre Lacrosse Enjoys Successful Season

Joon Lee  
SPECIAL EDITOR

South Mecklenburg's lacrosse season ended on a tough note. Their season took a step toward the positive direction in the second half. Expectations were high going into the season as the team returned six starters and a handful of players with more experience since playing last year. The team, however, got off to a rocky start, going 0-5 with tough overtime losses to Vance and North Mecklenburg. The players managed to keep their hopes up though and team morale was not destroyed. Then, in an important conference game at Myers Park, the Sabres came out fired up and beat the Mustangs 6-3. It was the first win of the season and the first time South had ever defeated the Mustangs in lacrosse. Matt Stahl and Thomas Basch led the way with two goals each, while Mike McKenzie and Mike Chang each added a goal. The defense put up yet another solid performance and the team seems to be getting better by each game as they become more familiar with one another. The win, however, was costly for the Sabres as Basch had to leave the game with a knee injury. He was an integral part of the offense and he will be sorely missed.

After the Myers Park win, the Sabres had a home conference game against the #2 team in the conference, Catholic. South was a huge underdog and many thought this would be an easy win for Catholic. South, however, was thinking upset and the team was very loose before the game. Also, defenseman Joon Lee was making his long awaited return from an ankle injury. The game started and the Sabres did not roll over for Catholic; instead, they hung tight and held a 12-9 lead with 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter. Stahl led the way with five goals, while the midfield greatly contributed to the offense, especially Scott Andrews, who scored his first goal of the season and played excellent defense. Mike Chang added two more goals and an assist, as he continued his excellent play. Though South lost 13-12 in overtime, they proved that they could hang with the best.

A 15-3 win against the Providence J.V. team followed and the team left for Spring Break. After the break, the Sabres seemed recharged and they beat Myers Park 10-5. Then came the crucial conference game at Vance. The magnitude of this game was extremely important because with a win, South would get out of seventh place in the conference and pos-

sibly jump up to as high as fourth. The game was a tight, defensive struggle and going into the fourth quarter, the game was tied at 4. The Sabres defense was like a wall and Neil Smith led the way, scooping up a countless number of ground balls and shutting down Vance's attack. McKenzie put in two goals and his second, coming with about five minutes left in the game, put the Sabres up for good.

The team had their sights set on the May 15 championship game at Memorial Stadium, but once again, the Catholic Cougars stood in their way. South had to win a playoff game at Catholic to advance, but they came up short in a physical, defensive game, 7-4. Steffan Milloy kept South in the game with great saves time after time, but penalties killed the Sabres and they shot themselves in the foot the whole game by not taking advantage of fast break opportunities. Scoring for the Sabres was Stahl, who had two goals, McKenzie with one, and Tommy Glad. added one. The Sabres were utterly disappointed in their loss and felt they were the better team but Catholic also played a great game. The lacrosse team would like to thank all the fans for showing up to the games and would like to wish each senior good luck.

## Sabre Tennis Finishes Off A Great Season

John Lakas  
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The men's tennis team at South Meck capped off another great season in 2000. They proved to themselves and other teams in the conference that they belonged at the top. The team finished second in the conference and completed the season with an overall record of 15-2. "It was a good solid season for us this year. We accomplished most of our goals and took down conference rival Providence," said Coach Weaver.

The Sabres had five return-

ing players from last year led by Kim Ellis, Phillip Crigler, Worth St. George, Hunter Brantley, and Mike Muenow. All of these players had a key role in the Sabres' success throughout the year. The team also picked up some new talent. Will Devore stepped up to be a solid #3 player on the team. He was accompanied by Bobby Matera and Victor Zweiner, both of whom contributed to the team's winning record.

Each match the Sabres played in could not be taken lightly. The team had talent but they could not expect to show

up and be handed the victory. The Sabres worked hard every day to produce the winning results that they did. "Coach Weaver did a great job in conditioning us and keeping us focused on our goals," said Worth St. George. A perfect combination of talent, hard work, and a little luck resulted in a memorable season for the tennis team. "I am proud of the accomplishments these guys achieved. They demonstrated leadership and maturity which allowed us to have a terrific season," said Coach Weaver.

The boy's track team is heading in new directions this year. South Meck is looking to re-establish its position among the top four teams in the conference. It was only two seasons ago that the team was left without a true track coach and was battling for last place in the conference.

Since then, however, the team has acquired a new head coach, Brian Zelk, who has already done more marvelous things with the track and cross-country teams than anybody could have ever imagined. Last year was a rebuilding year for

## Sabre Runners on the Right TRACK!

the track team, but this year they are challenging some of the top teams in the conference.

This year's team is led by captains Toby Blakeney, Marcus Cunningham, Chris Gordon, and Daniel Queen. The team has already been to several big track meets this season and has placed well at all of them. This included a third place finish out of 16 teams at the Rebel Track and Field Invitational in South Carolina. The team has already qualified many more people for regionals than it has in recent years. These include Toby Blakeney (triple jump and 1600

meter relay), Chris Gordon (800 meter run, 1600 meter relay, and 3200 meter relay), Marcus Cunningham (400 meter run and 1600 meter relay), Lawrence Mayes (1600 meter relay), Alexi Neill (3200 meter run), Adam Slawter (3200 meter run and 3200 meter relay), Derek Smit (3200 meter relay), Heath Spivey (3200 meter relay), Matt Morse (3200 meter relay), Mitchell Blair (discus), Greg Smith (shotput), and Daniel Queen (pole vault).

At conference the team surprised everybody by taking second overall. Going into the

## The Dog Days of Summer

Alexi Neill  
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The summer is going to roll around in a month or so, which in a way is depressing to me because sports reach their nadir during this time. Sports hibernate during the summer as bears do during the winter. The major sports during the summer are baseball, golf, NASCAR racing, and women's basketball, which all quite frankly bore me to death.

*"Sports hibernate during the summer..."*

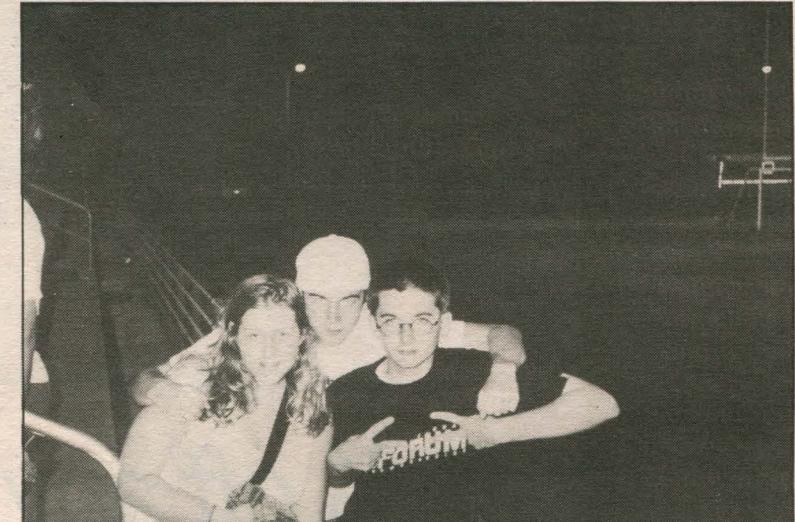
I know that baseball has tradition behind it and is labeled as America's favorite sport, but to me it is a game designed for lazy people. There is hardly any action at all. I cannot sit on the couch for three hours or more just to watch an occasional home run or base hit. I found it hard enough to stay awake during last year's World Series, which is one of the most popular sporting events of the year. The season is almost twice as long as any other sport (162 games) and I am tired of it by the time that they have played 20 games.

Golf and NASCAR racing are two other sports that are popular during the summer. Correction, golf and NASCAR racing are two other "games"

that are popular. Don't get me wrong, golf can be interesting when Tiger Woods is on his game or when John Daly drives the ball 330 yards and then into a pine tree. I cannot consider it a sport, however, when I see a golfer in the top five of a tournament smoking a cigarette on the way up to the eighteenth green or a 57 year old man (Jack Nicklaus) competing in the top 10 with 20 year olds in one of the top golf tournaments of the year.

On the other hand, NASCAR racing can also be exciting when there are six car pile-ups, but that is rare. It too is excessively long (four hours on a lucky day) and is designed for lazy adults who have nothing better to do with their lives than watch people go in a circle for 300 or 400 laps.

Women's basketball is the final boring sport in the summer. I just love to see women run up and down the court and dribble the ball off of their legs 20 times a game. If I am really lucky, I can see Lisa Leslie smack the backboard on a lay-up or Cynthia Cooper raise the roof with a three point shot!



Sabre Lacrosse Fans of the Year! (Krysta Zellers and Ron and Tom Newsom)

Alexi Neill  
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

ond place in the 800 meter run and Daniel Queen took second place in the pole vault.

The best part of the team is that they are young. There are only four seniors on the team and they have a lot of talented underclassmen. The team had a successful season this year, but they are also a team to watch for in the next few seasons. With the great coach and spectacular runners that they currently have, they will probably be able to win a conference championship within the next few years.



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